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very much in the reckoning, not being rated as a maritime nation, the coastwise trade excepted. It was added with insult to injury when Dr. Zimmermann ignored the shipping losses of North Sea neutrals and bade them save their trading vessels for the great resumption of trade upon the return of peace.

What Coalition in the House of Representatives Calls For.

If the Republican Representatives in the House of the Sixty-fifth Congress, acting from an exalted sense of patriotism, submerge their partisanship and forego the fruits of their victory at the polls in November by agreeing to the coalition organization now under discussion at Washington, would their admirable example produce in the Executive Department a coalition against the extreme party rule that obtains therein to-day? Or would the sacrifice of the Republican lawmakers be accepted without compensatory action at the White House?

President Wilson's Cabinet is composed of men selected from approximately half the voting population of the United States. The others are barred from it for political purposes. It does not enjoy the respect or confidence of the country. Its lamentable weakness, recognized from the beginning of Mr. Wilson's first term, is a continuing peril in the difficult times on which the nation has entered. Yet while the Republicans in the House are soberly considering the subordination of their unquestioned power and the non-enforcement of their political rights, no word comes from Mr. Wilson or his advisers of a disposition among Democrats to display a similar disinterestedness.

Coalition in the House would not become a fact unless coalition in the Executive Department accompanies it. The Democrats cannot expect to take everything and give nothing. Not only party expediency but the highest considerations of public welfare demand that joint action in the legislature be supported by joint action in the Executive Department.

La Gardienne du Phare.

WINIFRED HOLT is back from France and is trying to raise more American money to help along her work among the sightless victims of the war.

What had been done for the blind in America by this woman of tender heart and sound sense with its known to all the readers of THE SUN. Her "Lighthouse" system, in which the central lamp is a burning desire to alleviate one of the worst of human misfortunes, and in which the Fresnel lens is represented by a most intelligent method, first renewing hope through personal influence and then bringing light and happiness through work, has saved thousands from the darkness of soul worse than the darkness of the grave.

When the great war came, with its vast increase in the number of men hopeless without the light that shines only through such help as she can give, Miss Holt devoted herself to the work in France in behalf of the soldiers blinded in battle. "La Gardienne du Phare," she is called at the Lighthouse in the Rue Barb, and blessings beyond the power of words to express go with the title.

She has come back for more money for the Lighthouse.

A Vanishing Curse of Centuries.

Nothing could be more significant of the success of China's war against opium than the report of GEORGE E. ANDERSON, the American Consul General at Hongkong, that it is probable that the trade returns of the port for 1916 are the last in which opium will be considered "a factor of any consequence." Hongkong was one of the great opium markets of the world. It was called to Great Britain as a result of the opium war; trade in the drug was one of its profitable lines of business, one of the important features of its commercial life. The closing of this market means the closing of other ports of entry to the drug and the cutting off of the outside sources of supply.

The struggle of China against opium, her "curse of centuries," has been a fight against strong foreign as well as internal influences. The exportation, principally from India, had to be stopped, the growing of the poppy plant in China limited to the minimum, and the Chinese, more addicted to the drug than any other people, forced to give up its use. Success in carrying out one of these measures was largely contingent upon the enforcement of the others.

The question of the importation of the drug had already been the cause of two wars with Great Britain. It was a trade that India was loath to give up; for it is estimated that the total amount paid by China and Eastern Asia for Indian opium above its cost price during the continuance of the trade was \$2,100,000,000. Finally, however, an agreement was reached in 1911 between China and Great Britain by which India was gradually to reduce her exportation to the vanishing point if China would furnish proof that she was discontinuing the cultivation of the poppy plant.

The production of home grown opium was about ten times the foreign importation. China in forcing her decree was compelled to deprive the owners of some of her richest land of their most profitable crop. She was compelled also to give up a tax of \$35,000,000 on this home product, a revenue of which she was much in need. Heavy bribes were offered for rights to continue the sale of the drug, one company in Shanghai offering \$10,000,000 for an extension of its privileges.

But so earnest and consistent has been the Government's course that it has just requested that a British envoy be deputed to investigate its cam-

paign of suppression. It has sent final orders to the provinces that opium plantations be swept away by the first of next year, that all trading in opium stop by this month and that opium smoking cease by next June. Reports indicate that these orders were received with much enthusiasm and that all their provisions will be carried out.

China's struggle was one of the greatest ever made against a national vice. Her campaign of suppression was largely a national issue. Its inception was perhaps not so much in pity for the misery and the wrecks that the drugs caused as in the realization of the weakness of China as compared with Western nations. In the end it came to be a genuine desire to benefit the people. The young republic has won a great victory and at the same time has set an admirable example to the rest of the world.

Helping the Lord to Provide.

The Protestant Episcopal Church has succeeded beyond its expectations in raising money for the endowment of its clergymen's retirement fund. It started out to accumulate \$5,000,000. Bishop LAWRENCE of Massachusetts was commissioned to manage the task. He is now able to report that \$6,500,000 has been pledged, a sum adequate to provide comfort for priests who have worn themselves out in the service of their church. They do not look for luxury.

Generally the Protestant churches have been lagging in provision for the old age of their ministers. The evils of a system—or lack of system—which condemned men to subsist on the private bounty of individuals or to seek support in unfamiliar occupations have not been concealed. Their efforts have not contributed to the dignity and effectiveness of the churches themselves. Yet a childlike faith that the Lord would provide for his shepherds in the days of their decrepitude has been characteristic of their organization, and has frequently served as a refuge from the tackling of unpleasant facts. It is a lamentable fact that the human agencies of this provision have on numerous occasions proved, to put it mildly, inefficient.

Do all parishes pay the rectors' salaries promptly? There have been instances in which they did not. As business methods have been applied to the later years of the clergy's life, it is to be hoped that their beneficent impact may not be withheld in the days of hardest labor.

A Disturbed Grave.

The discovery of a hermetically sealed vessel of holy water in an Indian grave near Rochester is not a matter of surprise, even when it is suggested that the burial must have been before 1887, when the Indian village where the grave has been found was destroyed by a French punitive expedition. It is not now a Roman Catholic custom to bury holy water with the dead, although the water is used several times in the ritual of funerals; nor is it likely that it was the custom in the seventeenth century; but there is no rule against it, and the mission priest who put the vessel beside the dead Seneca may have done so to comply with the Indian's wish or to add reverence to what may have been—the times were warlike—a hurried burial.

The Senecas were the last of the Five Nations to be reached by the missionaries, for their tribe held the western door of the Long House. It was 1656 before Father CHARTERNOCK, one of the martyr Bénédictine's lieutenants, arrived among the largest of the Iroquois nations. It may have been he or his companion, Father MENARD, who buried this Indian; or perhaps it was Father FARMAN, who built the first mission chapel for the Senecas at Gandoncarne; or any one of the several Jesuits who labored in the field until the general Iroquois war of 1683, which led to the invasion by the brave but brutal DEKONVILLE and the destruction he wrought in 1687.

Just why the vessel should have been dug up and sent to the State Museum we are at a loss to understand. There scarcely can be anything in the grave of a New York Indian, dead only a little more than two centuries, that will add to human knowledge, and a State museum is not the place for objects obtained by what some will term desecration, objects likely to satisfy the curious rather than the students.

Political Postmasters Going.

Putting the first and second class postmasters under the protection of civil service rules will, after a time, meet the general approval of the country, and probably effect some improvement in the service. We may hope as much without deluding ourselves with the idea that a "reform" originating in the mind of Mr. BURLEIGH, admittedly the political strategist of the Administration, is wholly without political purpose. For the moment it will be criticized only by Republicans who see Democrats intruded in office, and their place anywhere in the outer darkness weeping and gnashing their teeth.

The importance of the post office in carrying elections is much overestimated in any case, though the astute Mr. FRANK HITCHCOCK has demonstrated its success in controlling a national convention. In towns of over 50,000 people only a negligible proportion of the citizens know or care whether the postmaster is a Republican or a Democrat. It is in the case of the humble fourth class postmasters that one feels a certain sort of regret for the iconoclastic advance of civil service reform.

Ever since the days of PETERBURY V. NABBY in the office at "Confeder-

X Roads," the country postmaster has been a figure of light and leading, a political oracle and perhaps the only tangible evidence to the inhabitants that the Government at Washington still lives. Leader in political battles, honored by the reception of periodical letters from the Congressmen, the regular recipient of the Congressional Record and pub. doc. documents, he formed a bond between the people and the State. Now he is reduced to the commonplace. That John JONES is postmaster at Faraway Falls is no more a tribute to the glorious political struggles of a few more than half its people than is the fact that Jim BROWN is station agent.

The old order changes, giving place to new, and before long the job of postmaster may be as inglorious and perfunctory as that of president of a national bank.

O'GORMAN, WORKS and CLAPP ought to call an extra session of their own.

We beg leave to call the attention of the Democrats of this State to the fact that one LUDLEY M. GARRISON, a genuine Democrat who formerly voted in Jersey City, has taken an apartment in Manhattan.

SCOTT NEARING has been "forced" out of another professorship—this time by his admirers. The fact that Professor NEARING, who has been a student of the learned martyrdom to one of the leading professors.

An eminently noisy preacher in this town, being asked if he would try to defend one of his sermons that had been assailed by a critic, replied that he was not accustomed to physical exertion, and consequently his intervention would only result in his getting a licking. Yet even this display might have the threatened results in good. However, for him who stop to count the cost of blackened eyes and cracked heads.

When BILL STONE said that he never explains, he meant that he never explains in less than a column and a half.

Neutral shipowners should give up their trade with England. They have made enough money, and can afford to bear the loss of English trade.—Dr. ZIMMERMANN.

The loss of trade they will have to stand if their ships cannot be navigated to ports of destination, but Dr. ZIMMERMANN must not confound neutral shipowners with their Government. The principle contended for by the neutral shipowners; even the right to carry contraband subject to the risk of capture and destruction or confiscation. The German Foreign Office is disposed to approach the question from a point of view that it is the neutral government's duty to sell contraband to the Entente Allies. How different would be the German attitude if neutral ships could be brought into German ports.

The city continues peaceful under the protection of American sailors—San Diego dispatch.

Why leave out the marines? Even the American sailor admits the superiority of the American marine as a policeman.

Carnegie Hall is succeeding to the reputation of Cooper Union as a place where wild enthusiasm may be had, on any occasion, for any cause.

The Eastern Yacht Club of Marblehead should sympathize with the German people. Neither can expel the Kaiser, though both would like to.

There is nothing so becoming to Uncle Sam as a stiff upper lip.

When BENJAMIN C. MARSH exclaimed at Carnegie Hall on Friday evening: "If we must arm, let it be to march on Washington and restore the Government to the people." It was fortunate that this nation is not at war. But Mr. MARSH, if he is wise, will keep his eye on the clock.

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